Human Resources Service Center-Northeast (HRSC-NE)
Modern Bulletin #3
Topic: Notice to the HRO Information Technology POCs
15 June 2001

From the HRSC-NE Director of Automation and Information Technology . . .

USER ACCOUNTS

This is a reminder of the 6/15 (database) and 7/6 (signed forms) deadlines for User Account information. We really will not have the luxury of time to make exceptions. Please get any questions in early.

HROC now expects to implement the FIREWALL before conversion to Modern. This means the IP addresses you provide (and will include on the User Account forms) must be accurate or access will not work. (To be honest, it is still unclear when they will actually turn it on.)

During your Modern client install and access test, please navigate through the screens and try to print.   (This can also be tested during the current use of the training accounts.) Mike Ricks has to build your word processor and ghostview "paths" into your accounts, so coordination is necessary - we need to be sure that info is correct. This effort will eliminate problems like not being able to print while training or when Modern is really turned on! This is also something to remember after we are live and users get new PCs, software or anything else that could cause those paths to change. We must be notified if that happens.

Mass Actions / Table 30 and UIC Updates

Mass Actions are considered 'employee personnel actions'. Under the HRSC-NE Modern DCPDS Deployment Plan, the last date for submitting employee personnel actions is **2 July**. Additionally, the cut off date for Table 30 and UIC updates is **13 July**.

Client Install

You have all heard from Eileen Billups and most of you have already installed the Modern Client and tested access to the training server. This is important as the switch over after July 20 will be quick and we will have difficulty responding to a large number of help calls at deployment time. This also gives you an excellent opportunity to test and get familiar with the new DCPDS and particularly printing. Please cooperate with Eileen in this effort.

DESIRES

Before you read about Cognos below, I want to ask for some assistance with your DESIRES. The DESIRE Queues are crowded. They are also going away. Briefly, we are spending time

developing skills in writing reports using Cognos Impromptu. As time permits, we will be practicing by building reports that will replace DESIRES that are in regular use at the HRSC. We will also be looking at your DESIRES. Georgeanne Nelson has asked for your assistance by annotating the DESIRES in the Library that you would want to have converted to Cognos. Please cooperate with this request. As indicated below, right now there is limited time for us to help with converting these (your reports). However, they will be considered in our effort to make reports that will be available to all.

COGNOS - Reports

Let me start by updating you with what I know or think I know. Sometime during Modern DCPDS deployment, data will begin flowing from DCPDS to the CSU (the Modern Regional Applications equivalent). Then the data will flow to the Cognos Datamart. At that time, HRSC-NE users will be able to access Cognos reports on an HRSC Network Server. Those outside the HRSC-NE do not have access to this server. However, a Cognos Web Server will be setup at the HRSC-NE for external access (via Internet browsers - you do not need to buy anything). The data of the HRSC-NE datamart will be available for 'report calls' from the Cognos Web Server (it is actually in our office NOW!) PS - We also recently learned that SF-50s will be available to you via Cognos.

It is still unclear to me when external users will be able to access the Cognos Web Server and what their read/write provisions will be in the beginning. I am fairly certain that very shortly after deployment, access to reports will be granted - the ability to pick a report, run it and receive it in various formats (i.e., finished report, spreadsheet, flat ASCII file, etc.). Beyond that, I can only say that there are plans to provide you with the capability to create Cognos reports (ad hoc).

So, with your HR/data reports coming via Cognos (Impromptu) and your hard worked DESIREs becoming useless, you again are asked to annotate those DESIRES you wish to convert to Cognos. Georgeanne Nelson is reviewing DESIRES in the queue. Georgeanne will be working with Roe Gorgone and the rest of the staff developing our skills, filling the needs of the HRSC-NE and to help you with your report needs.

Please note, the best way to immediately handle your local report/data needs is through the use of a local program (spreadsheet, database, existing MIS) and import data from Modern DCPDS via Cognos. This is the focus Code 20 is currently working on for the HRSC users. We will be willing to help with your 'extract reports' as previously indicated when many of you visited in April 2000. The actual use of Cognos with Northeast data will not be available until sometime during the deployment process. Therefore, the reports created cannot be completely tested until that time. With so many reports required by your offices, I hesitate to put a time frame on making specialized reports happen and repeat my suggestion that your office prepares to use local capabilities to support immediate needs.

As far as helping you with your individual report needs, we know some of you have purchased Cognos and have been developing skills - some by accessing an MS Access database. At this point, we can offer assistance with these extract products. Additionally, we are working at having several generic reports ready for use immediately following deployment; however, we will have to limit working on individualized reports. We will share the primary HRSC-NE extract used to feed HRSC-NE programs if any of you would like. If you want to visit the HRSC-NE and work on a specialized extract or reports, we will help where we can. After the heavy load of completing all

deployment tasks and getting into a settled routine, we will gear up to provide more extensive help - again, in the lines of helping you help yourself.

IP Addresses

Your IP addresses are needed for our future firewall, as mentioned above concerning User Accounts. You also need to make sure your firewalls allow access to HRSC-NE addresses. IP address **204.222.167.18** (through port 1601) is required now for accessing Modern DCPDS training **and** the future production database. We suggest that IP **address 204.222.167.16** be kept open, as it **will be** used for Modern DCPDS Training.   Additionally, **204.222.168.37** will be required for accessing the Cognos Web server.

I hope this information helps. The Code 20 staff has gotten into a very busy crunch time now and we all appreciate your cooperation. If I have not answered your questions on these issues, please let me know.

Jerry Klein
Jerry_klein@ne.hroc.navy.mil
215-408-5004
DSN 243-5004